

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

1. (original) A communications terminal apparatus, comprising:

a communications mechanism configured to perform communications with a plurality of communications machines including a sending communications machine and a transfer communications machine;

a registering mechanism configured to register an address and a communications capability of said transfer communications machine;

a notifying mechanism configured to notify of said communications capability of said transfer communications machine registered in said registering mechanism; and

a controlling mechanism configured to instruct said notifying mechanism to notify said sending communications machine of said communications capability at a beginning of communications and to instruct said communications mechanism to transfer image information received from said sending communications machine to said transfer communications machine using said address stored in said registering mechanism.

2. (original) A communications terminal apparatus, comprising:

a communications mechanism configured to perform communications with a plurality of communications machines including a sending communications machine and a transfer communications machine;

a registering mechanism configured to register an address and a communications

capability of said transfer communications machine;

a memory storing a set of image parameters;

a notifying mechanism configured to notify of an enhancement communications capability of said apparatus in accordance with said communications capability of said transfer communications machine; and

a controlling mechanism configured to instruct said notifying mechanism to notify said sending communications machine of said enhancement communications capability at a beginning of communications and to instruct said communications mechanism to transfer image information received from said sending communications machine to said transfer communications machine using said address and said set of image parameters stored in said memory.

3. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 2, wherein said image information includes color and/or mono-color gray-scale data.

4. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 3, further comprising an enabling mechanism for enabling a color image receiving function when said address and said communications capability of said transfer communications machine are registered in said registering mechanism.

5. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 2, wherein said controlling mechanism is configured to instruct said communications mechanism to communicate with said transfer communications machine to obtain said communications capability of said transfer

communications machine when said communications capability of said transfer communications machine is registered in said registering mechanism.

6. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 2, further comprising another communications mechanism configured to perform communications with a plurality of communications machines including a sending communications machine and a transfer communications machine,

wherein said apparatus separately uses said communications mechanisms for receiving and transferring, and

wherein said controlling mechanism changes communications protocols for a transferring operation and accordingly converts said image parameters stored in said memory.

7. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 6, wherein said controlling mechanism is configured to start to transfer said image information received from said sending communications machine to said transfer communications machine before a completion of receiving said image information from said sending communications machine.

8. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein said controlling mechanism is configured to obtain a latest communications capability through said communications mechanism when transferring said image information and to update said registration mechanism with said latest communications capability.

9. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein said controlling mechanism is

configured to obtain a latest communications capability through said communications mechanism at intervals of a predetermined time period and to update said registration mechanism with said latest communications capability.

10. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein said controlling mechanism is configured to detect at the beginning of said communications that said image information is sent and to conduct a call initiation to said transfer communications machine when detecting that said image information is sent.

11. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein said controlling mechanism is configured to detect that said transfer communications machine is busy and to then stop receiving said image information from said sending communications machine.

12. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein said controlling mechanism is configured to transfer said image information to another registered transfer communications machine upon a detection of an event indicating that said transfer communications machine is busy.

13. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein said controlling mechanism is configured to perform a retry call to said transfer communications machine upon a detection of an event indicating that said transfer communications machine is busy.

14. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein said controlling mechanism is

configured to perform a retry call at intervals of a predetermined time period to said transfer communications machine upon a detection of an event indicating that said transfer communications machine is busy.

15. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein said controlling mechanism is configured to transfer said image information in page units.

16. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein said controlling mechanism is configured to transfer said image information using a type of communications same as that used to receive said image information with said communications mechanism.

17. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein said controlling mechanism is configured to transfer said image information through E-mail to said transfer communications machine.

18. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein said controlling mechanism is configured to detect that said transfer communications machine is incapable of receiving said image information and to then stop receiving said image information from said sending communications machine.

19. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 8, wherein said controlling mechanism is configured to determine whether said latest communications capability is sufficient to receive said image information and stops receiving said image information from said sending

communications machine when said latest communications capability is determined as not sufficient to receive said image information.

20. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 17, wherein said controlling mechanism is configured to add a literal identification of said image information to said E-mail.

21. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein said controlling mechanism is configured to transfer said image information with a predetermined identification code causing said transfer communications machine to reproduce an output of said image information into a predetermined recording sheet tray corresponding to said predetermined identification code.

22. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein said controlling mechanism is configured to determine whether an own communications capability can accept said image information and to transfer said image information to said transfer communications machine when said own communications capability of said apparatus cannot accept said image information.

23. (original) A communications terminal apparatus, comprising:

communicating means for performing communications with a plurality of communications machines including a sending communications machine and a transfer communications machine;

registering means for registering an address and a communications capability of said transfer communications machine;

notifying means for notifying of said communications capability of said transfer communications machine registered in said registering means; and

controlling means for instructing said notifying means to notify said sending communications machine of said communications capability at a beginning of communications and instructing said communications means to transfer image information received from said sending communications machine to said transfer communications machine using said address stored in said registering means.

24. (currently amended) A communications terminal apparatus, comprising:

communicating means for performing communications with a plurality of communications machines including a sending communications machine and a transfer communications machine;

registering means for registering an address and a communications capability of said transfer communications machine;

storing means for storing ~~and~~ a set of image parameters;

notifying means for notifying of an enhancement communications capability of said apparatus in accordance with said communications capability of said transfer communications machine; and

controlling means for instructing said notifying means to notify said sending communications machine of said enhancement communications capability at a beginning of communications and instructing said communications means to transfer image information received from said sending communications machine to said transfer communications machine using said address and said set of image parameters stored in said storing means.

25. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 24, wherein said image information includes color or mono-color gray-scale data.

26. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 25, further comprising enabling means for enabling a color image receiving function when said address and said communications capability of said transfer communications machine are registered in said registering means.

27. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 24, wherein said controlling means comprises means to instruct said communications means to communicate with said transfer communications machine to obtain said communications capability of said transfer communications machine when said communications capability of said transfer communications machine is registered in said registering means.

28. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 24, further comprising another communications means configured to perform communications with a plurality of communications machines including a sending communications machine and a transfer communications machine,

wherein said apparatus separately uses said communications means for receiving and transferring, and

wherein said controlling means changes communications protocols for a transferring operation and accordingly converts said image parameters stored in said storing means.

29. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 28, wherein said controlling means includes means to start to transfer said image information received from said sending communications machine to said transfer communications machine before a completion of receiving said image information from said sending communications machine.

30. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 29, wherein said controlling means includes means to obtain a latest communications capability through said communications means when transferring said image information and to update said registration means with said latest communications capability.

31. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 29, wherein said controlling means includes means to obtain a latest communications capability through said communications means at intervals of a predetermined time period and to update said registration means with said latest communications capability.

32. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 29, wherein said controlling means includes means to detect at the beginning of said communications that said image information is sent and to conduct a call initiation to said transfer communications machine when detecting that said image information is sent.

33. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 29, wherein said controlling means includes means to detect that said transfer communications machine is busy and to then stop receiving said image information from said sending communications machine.

34. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 29, wherein said controlling means includes means to transfer said image information to another registered transfer communications machine upon a detection of an event indicating that said transfer communications machine is busy.

35. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 29, wherein said controlling means includes means to perform a retry call to said transfer communications machine upon a detection of an event indicating that said transfer communications machine is busy.

36. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 29, wherein said controlling means includes means to perform a retry call at intervals of a predetermined time period to said transfer communications machine upon a detection of an event indicating that said transfer communications machine is busy.

37. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 29, wherein said controlling means includes means to transfer said image information in page units.

38. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 29, wherein said controlling means includes means to transfer said image information using a type of communications same as that used to receive said image information with said communications means.

39. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 29, wherein said controlling means

includes means to transfer said image information through E-mail to said transfer communications machine.

40. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 29, wherein said controlling means includes means to detect that said transfer communications machine is incapable of receiving said image information and to then stop receiving said image information from said sending communications machine.

41. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 30, wherein said controlling means includes means to determine whether said latest communications capability is sufficient to receive said image information and to stop receiving said image information from said sending communications machine when said latest communications capability is determined as not sufficient to receive said image information.

42. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 39, wherein said controlling means includes means to add a literal identification of said image information to said E-mail.

43. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 29, wherein said controlling means includes means to transfer said image information with a predetermined identification code to cause said transfer communications machine to reproduce an output of said image information into a predetermined recording sheet tray corresponding to said predetermined identification code.

44. (original) An apparatus as defined in Claim 29, wherein said controlling means includes means to determine whether an own communications capability can accept said image information and to transfer said image information to said transfer communications machine when said own communications capability of said apparatus cannot accept said image information.

45. (original) A method of transferring image information, comprising the steps of:
registering an address and a communications capability of a transfer communications machine;

notifying a sending communications machine of said communications capability of said transfer communications machine at a beginning of communications;

receiving image information from said sending communications machine; and

transferring said image information received from said sending communications machine to said transfer communications machine using said address of said transfer communications machine.

46. (original) A method of transferring image information, comprising the steps of:
registering an address and a communications capability of a transfer communications machine;

storing a set of image parameters;

notifying of an enhancement communications capability in accordance with said communications capability of said transfer communications machine at a beginning of communications;

receiving image information from a sending communications machine; and
transferring said image information received from said sending communications machine
to said transfer communications machine using said address and said set of image parameters
stored in said storing step.

47. (original) A method as defined in Claim 46, wherein said image information includes
color or mono-color gray-scale data.

48. (original) A method as defined in Claim 47, further comprising a step of enabling for
enabling a color image receiving function when said registering step registers said address and
said communications capability of said transfer communications machine.

49. (original) A method as defined in Claim 46, further comprising a step of
communicating for communicating with said transfer communications machine to obtain said
communications capability of said transfer communications machine when said registering step
registers said communications capability of said transfer communications machine.

50. (original) A method as defined in Claim 46, wherein said transferring step uses a
communications line and communications protocols different from those used for said receiving
step with different image parameters converted from said image parameters stored in said storing
step.

51. (original) A method as defined in Claim 50, wherein said transferring step starts to

transfer said image information before a completion of receiving said image information from said sending communications machine.

52. (original) A method as defined in Claim 51, wherein said transferring step obtains a latest communications capability from said transfer communications machine when transferring said image information and updates said latest communications capability registered in said registering step.

53. (original) A method as defined in Claim 51, wherein said transferring step obtains a latest communications capability from said transfer communications machine at intervals of a predetermined time period and updates said latest communications capability registered in said registering step.

54. (original) A method as defined in Claim 51, further comprising a step of detecting for detecting at the beginning of said communications that said image information is sent, and wherein said transferring step sends a call initiation to said transfer communications machine when said detecting step detects that said image information is sent.

55. (original) A method as defined in Claim 51, further comprising a detecting step for detecting that said transfer communications machine is busy, and wherein said receiving step stops receiving when said detecting step detects that said transfer communications machine is busy.

56. (original) A method as defined in Claim 51, wherein said transferring step transfers said image information to another registered transfer communications machine upon a detection of an event indicating that said transfer communications machine is busy.

57. (original) A method as defined in Claim 51, wherein said transferring step performs a retry call to said transfer communications machine upon a detection of an event indicating that said transfer communications machine is busy.

58. (original) A method as defined in Claim 51, wherein said transferring step performs a retry call at intervals of a predetermined time period to said transfer communications machine upon a detection of an event indicating that said transfer communications machine is busy.

59. (original) A method as defined in Claim 51, wherein said transferring step transfers said image information in page units.

60. (original) A method as defined in Claim 51, wherein said transferring step transfers said image information using a type of communications same as that used by said receiving step.

61. (original) A method as defined in Claim 51, wherein said transferring step transfers said image information through E-mail to said transfer communications machine.

62. (original) A method as defined in Claim 51, further comprising a detecting step for detecting that said transfer communications machine is incapable of receiving said image

information, and wherein said receiving step stops receiving when said detecting step detects that said transfer communications machine is incapable of receiving said image information.

63. (original) A method as defined in Claim 52, further comprising a determining step for determining whether said latest communications capability is sufficient to receive said image information, and wherein said receiving step stops receiving when said determining step determines said latest communications capability is not sufficient to receive said image information.

64. (original) A method as defined in Claim 61, further comprising an adding step for adding a literal identification of said image information to said E-mail.

65. (original) A method as defined in Claim 51, wherein said transferring step transfers said image information with a predetermined identification code to cause said transfer communications machine to reproduce an output of said image information into a predetermined recording sheet tray corresponding to said predetermined identification code.

66. (original) A method as defined in Claim 51, further comprising a determining step for determining whether an own communications capability can accept said image information, and wherein said transferring step transfers said image information to said transfer communications machine when said determining step determines that said own communications capability of said apparatus cannot accept said image information.

67. (currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a fax transmission at a receiving fax machine checking through an automated process if the fax transmission contains color image information; and

if said checking determines that the fax transmission contains color image information, transferring at least the color image information, ~~though~~ through an automated process, from the receiving fax machine to a transfer fax machine that has color printing capabilities for printing of said color image information.

68. (original) A method as in claim 67 in which said transferring is by fax transmission from the receiving fax machine to the transfer fax machine.

69. (original) A method as in claim 67 in which said transferring is by e-mail transmission.

70. (original) A method as in claim 67 in which said checking comprises analyzing an initial portion of the fax transmission to see if a subsequent portion of the fax transmission contains color image information.

71. (original) A method as in claim 67 in which said transferring includes generating contact information identifying said transfer fax machine on the basis of information stored at said receiving fax machine before said fax transmission.

72. (original) A method as in claim 71 in which said generating of contact information

includes selecting said transfer fax machine from a plurality of fax machines for which contact information has been stored at the receiving fax machine.

73. (original) A method as in claim 67 including concurrently receiving said fax transmission at the receiving fax machine and transferring said fax transmission from the receiving to the transfer fax machine.

74. (original) A method as in claim 67 including storing, at said receiving fax machine, contact information regarding one or more transfer fax machines that have color printing capabilities and updating said contact information from time to time through an automated process.

75. (original) A method as in claim 74 in which said contact information comprises information regarding color information processing capabilities of said one or more transfer fax machines.

76. (currently amended) A method as in claim 74 in which said transferring includes selecting through an automated process one of several transfer fax machines for which contact information is stored in the receiving fax machine, determining if the so selected transfer fax machine is available and, if it is not, selecting another, available transfer machine from among those for which contact information is stored at the receiving fax machine.

77. (currently amended) A method as in claim 76 in which the stored contact information

includes information regarding color information handling capabilities ~~or~~ of said one or more transfer fax machines and said selecting includes taking into account, through automated process, a relationship between said fax transmission and said color information processing capabilities.

78. (original) A method as in claim 67 in which said transferring includes adding, by the receiving fax machine, a subject line to the transferred fax transmission.

79. (original) A method as in claim 67 in which said transferring includes adding, by the receiving fax machine, a code to the transferred fax transmission designating a manner of handling prints of the transferred fax transmission at the transfer fax machine.

80. (original) A method as in claim 67 in which said checking comprises checking if the fax transmission includes color information on a page-by-page basis and said transferring comprises transferring to the transfer fax machine only pages of said fax transmission that contain color information.